

HARRISON GRAY OTIS HOUSE (THIRD)
(American Meteorological Society Headquarters)
Beacon Hill
45 Beacon Street
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS MA-1321
MA-1321

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HARRISON GRAY OTIS HOUSE (THIRD) (American Meteorological Society Headquarters)

HABS No. MA-1321

Location: 45 Beacon Street, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The Harrison Gray Otis (Third) House is located within the Beacon Hill National Historic Landmark District, as is No. 85 Mount Vernon Street where Otis lived prior to this house. The second Harrison Gray Otis House dates to 1800.

Significance: Harrison Gray Otis commissioned three houses in all from Charles Bulfinch. The land for the first, located at 141 Cambridge Street, was acquired in 1793.¹ The second dwelling, on Mount Vernon Street on Beacon Hill, was Otis's home for not more than six years.² It was from there that Otis moved into this building. Otis was the third mayor of Boston, and he lived in this house until his death in 1848. Presently the building serves as the headquarters for the American Meteorological Society.³

Materials: Field measurements for No. 45 Beacon Street include those for the main entrance and other exterior details. James H. Ritchie & Associates, Architects & Engineers, supplied most of the graph paper, however, the drawings are not signed or dated. Most likely these were done in 1932-33.

¹ See HABS No. MA-845.

² See HABS No. MA-952.

³ AMS bought the property in 1958. Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), Inventory No. BOS.14893.